

BAY BRIDGE GATEWAY

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The Bay Bridge Gateway welcomes those who enter the East Bay via the Bay Bridge, as the bridge touches down within City of Oakland jurisdiction. This area, completely crisscrossed by Interstate connections, also has an industrial history due to its proximity to port activity. The environmental health of the area is of great concern, due to a number identified pollution sources. At the same time, with creeks and marshland and the potential for expanding tree corridors, the area has a strong foundation for considerable improvement. The Gateway already was designated a Priority Conservation Area in the last round of ABAG determinations, and this proposal would expand the boundaries of the PCA. The Bay Bridge Gateway PCA is proposed as an Urban Greening PCA, though there is some overlap with Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes PCAs.

The Bay Bridge Gateway PCA qualifies as Urban Greening because of its benefits to **Community Health, Climate & Resilience** and **Recreation**. It would co-benefit Water Supply & Quality and Wildlife Habitat.

The entirety of the Bay Bridge Gateway PCA territory is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. At least 70% of the residents must travel more than 0.5 miles to reach a healthy food source such as a grocery store, defining the area as Low Income-Low Access to Food by the USDA. The state EPA has found the area to be in the 75th percentile of EnviroScreen due to their disproportionate share of pollution, making it an Environmentally Disadvantaged Community. There are multiple sources of pollution. Practically every acre of the PCA is within 1,000 of a Freeway Buffer. Particularly at the toll entrance, this corresponds to High Particulate Levels, above Bay Area Air Quality Management District thresholds as laid out in Plan Bay Area for 2040. Additionally, much of the area was used for industrial purposes prior to 1968 that may contain PCBs and mercury, flagged by the Alameda County Clean Water Program for potential stormwater contamination as Old Industrial Land. However, a Major Urban Corridor traverses the area and helps connect the Bay to inland parks, and it provides a site for enhanced street tree plantings. By designating this area a PCA, the potential exists to benefit Community Health by improving food and park access in a Community of Concern. Cleaning up and remediating formerly industrial waterfront sites can co-benefit Water Supply & Quality.

Made up in part of marshland and abutting the Bay, most of the Bay Bridge Gateway is susceptible to a five-foot Sea Level Rise, projected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It also includes Open Creeks as mapped by the City of Oakland's Public Works Agency. By including this area in a PCA, the City of Oakland has an opportunity to address hazard risk due to flooding / sea level rise, thereby benefiting Climate & Resilience. With important bird habitat in the marshes and a portion of the San Francisco Bay Trail running through the area, the PCA would also benefit Recreation and co-benefit Wildlife Habitat.